

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NIC-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /103 W

----- 103370

R 100800Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7985

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SOFIA 0744

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, BU, UR, XH

SUBJECT: ZHIVKOV'S TRIP TO MOSCOW

REF: (A) SOFIA 734 AND (B) WARSAW 2242

1. ZHIVKOV AND TODOROV, WHO ACCORDING TO BULGARIAN MEDIA WERE ACCOMPANIED ONLY ZHIVKOV'S CHEF DE CABINET MIKKO BALEV, RETURNED MAY 8 FROM ONE DAY TRIP TO MOSCOW.

2. ALTHOUGH NO OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE ISSUED, PRESS STORY BY BTA NOTED THAT DISCUSSIONS CENTERED ON "PRINCIPAL ASPECTS OF FURTHER DEEPENING OF COOPERATION" BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. LEADERS ATTACHED "GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE FUTURE ASPECTS OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND IN PARTICULAR TO THE PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE PROCESS OF COOPERATION AND SPECIALIZATION OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, AS WELL AS SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL."

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BULGARIAN-SOVIET ECONOMIC COOPERATION, ACCORDING TO BTA,

IS AN "ORGANIC ELEMENT IN RESOLVING TASKS ASSIGNED BY THE COMPLEX PROGRAM OF SOCIALIST INTEGRATION." REMAINDER OF PRESS RELEASE EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR RECENT MOSCOW COMMUNIQUE AND GENERAL STATEMENT OF SATISFACTION AT INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH "RABOTNICHEYCO DELO" HEADLINES STORY AS "FULL UNITY ON ALL QUESTIONS", WE ARE STRUCK BY THE RELATIVE COOLNESS OF PRESS COVERAGE OF ZHIVKOV'S WHIRLWIND TRIP. THIS IS BY NO MEANS FIRST TIME BULGARIAN LEADERSHIP HAS GONE TO MOSCOW FOR UNEXPECTED CONSULTATIONS, AND SUCH UNOFFICIAL VISITS DO NOT RECEIVE TYPE OF COVERAGE RESERVED FOR MORE FORMAL MEETINGS. LACK OF AN OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE CAN ALSO BE EXPLAINED ON THESE GROUNDS, BUT THERE IS NOT THE KIND OF WARM (AND FREQUENTLY EXCESSIVE) PRAISE FOR BULGARIAN-SOVIET COOPERATION WE HAVE COME TO EXPECT IN PRESS COVERAGE OF SUCH EVENTS. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO DETECT ANY TRACES OF BULGARIAN INTRANSIGENCE ON CEMA INTEGRATION AS REPORTED FROM WARSAW (REFTEL B), ZHIVKOV'S UNEXPECTED AND UNEXPLAINED TRIP WOULD INDICATE POSSIBLE DIFFICULTIES REVOLVING AROUND BULGARS ROLE IN INDUSTRIAL SPECIALIZATION. GIVEN ZHIVKOV'S APPARENT ROLE IN 1973 AS PROMOTER AT SOVIET BEHEST OF WORLD COMMUNIST CONFERENCE POLITICAL QUESTIONS WITHIN THE SOCIALIST COMMUNITY, TOO, MAY HAVE BEEN FOCUS OF MEETING.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, ECONOMIC COOPERATION, PRESS COMMENTS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SOFIA00744
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740114-0468
From: SOFIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740557/aaaabypc.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) SOFIA 734 AND (B) WARSAW 2242
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 APR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <13 JUN 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ZHIVKOV'S TRIP TO MOSCOW
TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, BU, UR, XH, (ZHIVKOV, TODOR), (TODOROV, STANKO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005